



To: Commissioner Daniel Mark Mayeda (Co-Chair)
Commissioner Carolyn Williams (Co-Chair)
Commissioner Jean A. Franklin
Commissioner David A. Holtzman
Commissioner Mary Kenney
Commissioner Mark Mendoza
Commissioner Apolonio Morales
Commissioner Nelson Obregon
Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura
Commissioner Hailes H. Soto,
Commissioner Brian M. Stecher, PhD
Commissioner John Patrick Kevin Vento
Commissioner Doreena P. Wong

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December 8 , 2021

Sent via electronic transmission

Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission
c/o The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

RE: CHIRLA Draft Map feedback for Los Angeles County Citizen Redistricting Commission

Dear Co-Chair Mayeda, Co-Chair Williams, and Commissioners:



On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), commend you for your tireless work in drafting Los Angeles County maps. Drawing maps for the largest county in the country is truly a collective effort and we commend you for your leadership in still trying to balance a wide array of public testimony with the legally-mandated criteria.

As you review all public feedback received and prepare to pivot to a new round of line drawing, we want to elevate a few critical recommendations that will enhance your ability to meet the legal criteria, while maximizing the inclusion of as many COIs as possible, especially of the most disenfranchised communities across the state.

The commission should give due weight to the Voting Rights Act and communities of interest. During the first round of draft maps, the Commission displayed a reluctance to split cities, which is detrimental to both the letter and spirit of Senate Bill 958 and the VRA. If one believes the spirit of the VRA is to provide opportunities for historically underrepresented communities to elect candidates of choice, then this reluctance has led to a draft that has eliminated some of those opportunities. As the Commission works towards balancing total populations and compliance with the Voters First Act and VRA, it will have to split cities.

The Commission should not sacrifice communities of interest in order to follow city boundaries. Preserving COIs is on the same level as preserving cities. Focusing on city splits will ignore many COIs that cross those lines and even cost underrepresented communities opportunities to elect candidates of choice. For example, including the entire city of Long Beach in one board of supervisor district may result in Latino, Black, and AAPI COIs being divided, districts with strong minority influence being packed or paired with dissimilar areas, and small cities being cut.



CHIRLA continues to support Option C because it is the only map that fully respects the Latino community by providing the immediate opportunity to elect a candidate of choice in BOS 3. All other maps fall short of this goal, including those that draw two Latino majority CVAP districts. In fact, other maps actually put minority groups against each other. I work very closely with the East SFV residents and they experience similar struggles as low income working class communities in East LA and Southeast LA which have been kept whole in BOS 3. We don't want the East LA communities to lose representation, instead we want to build more political power for all immigrant residents in Los Angeles County.

However, under the current map options CHIRLA believes option Draft Map Option F-2 is the best choice for the immigrant community. We like that in this proposal Pomona is being kept whole in District 1. For District 2 we would like for you to include Wilmington which is currently in District 4 by moving the line south to South Western Ave, including naval reservation, Wilmington waterfront park, and cut following the west and east basin. Also, include some of Torrance in District 2 by bringing down the line along state route 107 and Sepulveda blvd. For District 3 we suggest strengthening the San Fernando Valley by including the city of Lake View terrace and Sunland which are currently in District 5. Overall, we suggest using the overall architecture of Map C because it uplifts the low income and immigrant communities in the East San Fernando Valley by separating it from surrounding high socioeconomic neighborhoods of West San Fernando Valley. It also respects AAPI communities in the Southbay. Furthermore it keeps Southeast Los Angeles communities of Huntington Park, South Gate, Bell, Bell Gardens, Lynwood, Cudahy, and Walnut Park together in a district not along the coast.

We oppose B-3 because it will divide the San Fernando Valley into two different districts. These communities of interest have stated in different testimonies that they want to be kept together. The eastside of San Fernando will be with the northern part of the county, of which it shares no common interest or issues. The west side of San Fernando will be with coastal cities, and they do not share the same issues or social economic backgrounds. San Fernando has been in a district with the coastal communities for the past 10 years, and they have not had a chance to



elect a candidate of choice. Instead they've had a candidate that has not served the low income communities that reside in San Fernando.

We oppose map option G-1 because District 2 is being drawn to the coast to include El Segundo, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach which are affluent communities with different economic engines compared to Inglewood, Lawndale, Hawthorne whose priorities are access to housing, homelessness and covid recovery. District 3 connects east San Fernando Valley immigrant COIs with coastal cities of Malibu and Santa Monica. In District 4 while it keeps all Southeast cities together it pairs them with coastal communities of Long Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes which have different socioeconomic priorities and industries.

We hope these recommendations provide you with critical insights and help enhance your next round of line-drawing. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Karen Diaz at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) at kdiaz@chirla.org.

Sincerely,

Angelica Salas

Executive Director

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)